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Alisson Becker and Bobby Firmino on life at Liverpool and their firm friendship

League Player of the Month gong

A line-up of LFC award winners from

And the winner is...

Minamino's month

Boys from Brazil

and his first month as a Red

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Reach Sport

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MARAGER OFTH MOMENT

The boss has been honoured several times this season as the best in the Prem – but he insists it means nothing unless there is real silverware to show for it

Words: Chris McLoughlin



f the Premier League Manager of the Month awards were totted up to decide the Manager of the Season then to all intents and purposes Jürgen Klopp would have it won already.

The Liverpool boss was named as Barclays Manager of the Month for December – the fourth time he has received the accolade during the opening five months of the season. It's also the fifth time that Klopp has won the award in 2019 and his seventh Premier League Manager of the Month success in total, having first landed the honour back in September 2016.

To win four Manager of the Month awards in five attempts – August, September, November and December – in the Premier League takes some doing, especially when you consider that dropping just two points, away to Manchester United, meant that Klopp was pipped to the October award by Chelsea's Frank Lampard.

If he keeps picking up honours at this rate, individually and on behalf of the Reds collective, the builders at LFC's new training base in Kirkby may need to revise their plans and install a bigger display cabinet.

No boss has ever won five Barclays Manager of the Month awards in the same season with Klopp equalling Pep Guardiola's Premier League record of four, achieved in season 2017/18.

However, rather than dwell on what he's already acquired, the 2019 Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup winning manager is typically more concerned about what he could win next.

"My only thought is that I want to win it next month too," he says, "so I am not getting too carried away. Obviously it's nice that people think that I was the best manager in these months – or we are the best coaches of the month, as we see it – but nothing has been decided yet, only just a really good extended start to the season.

"I think it's the fourth time this season? Wow! Thank you very

much! Thank you very much to my players and to my coaches. So far, we did not too bad!"

If you're imagining the Liverpool manager saying those words in a jovial manner with a big smile across his face then you're spot-on! But as ever, Klopp was also keen to emphasise that as happy as he is with how the season has gone so far, there is still a lot of football to play before any bigger team honours are landed.

"We are happy, but the key words are 'so far'. The season is really long and a lot of strange things can happen. A lot of strange things happen to us with injuries and moments where we think: oh, how can that happen? It's intense, it's really intense.

"I am very proud of what the boys did so far, especially with the trip to Qatar. It was, for different reasons, just difficult because the climate is different. I didn't feel it so much but I saw it in the faces of











the players after the training sessions.

"In the Middle East, outside is different in this period of the year. But we came through it and always so far found a solution for the different situations and problems. Coming home and playing an excellent game against Leicester, it was incredible [the Reds of course won 4-0 at one of their title-chasing rivals]. That was not expected.

"We don't take these things for granted and we didn't know how we would react after being away. Probably everybody thought about how the players' bodies would adapt after the time-switch and all that stuff, and then we went there and played just like not often before, to be honest, against a really strong side.

"Leicester was a good team before, Leicester are very good afterwards, but in this game we were very clearly better and that was an important sign for us that we can do things like this. So yes, this was my favourite game."

Klopp's four MoM awards came for months when Liverpool had 100 per cent records in the Premier League. His August accolade also followed after the Reds had lifted the UEFA Super Cup and in December the FIFA Club World Cup was lifted alongside a points-haul of 15 out of 15.

Getting those points on the board to give Liverpool a healthy lead in the Premier League table before the domestic campaign

resumes at Norwich City, following the Premier League's firstever mini 'winter-break,' is something the manager is particularly pleased about.

"In a long season you have to get the points when you can get them, and that's what we did so far because the other teams don't stop.

"We have seen that Leicester doesn't stop, [Manchester] City doesn't stop and the decisive part of the season is coming up now. Maybe in the beginning of the season everybody is not sure where they want to go, but now there are maybe five or six teams fighting for the Champions League and six teams fighting for staying in the league.

"So everybody is fighting for pretty much everything and we will realise that in the following games, so we have to be ready again and hopefully we will be."

Keeping clean-sheets was a key factor for Liverpool either side of Christmas. Between the 5-2 win at home to Everton at the start of December and the 2-1 win at Wolves in late January, and excluding the Carabao Cup 'kids game' at Aston Villa while the first-team were in Qatar, the Reds kept 10 clean-sheets in 11 games with only Monterrey's Rogelio Funes Mori finding a way past Alisson or Adrian during that spell.

Klopp is, of course, pleased at seeing his side shut out opponents but doesn't feel the goals conceded before that run – the Reds

"IN A LONG SEASON YOU HAVE TO GET THE POINTS WHEN YOU CAN GET THEM, AND THAT'S WHAT WE DID SO FAR BECAUSE THE OTHER TEAMS DON'T STOP"

failed to keep a clean-sheet during 13 consecutive matches – was down to bad defending.

"We didn't always concede goals before just because we defended badly," he offers. "We conceded goals for different reasons. Here a set-piece, there a little lack of concentration, stuff like this. That can happen, but it's a very intense season for us and we really trust in the things we do and, of course, Ali could play a bit longer.

"Did he have to make 20 world-class saves to keep the cleansheets? Probably not, but he had to be there. We had these kind of games where we needed him and the boys were very well concentrated over the full 90 minutes. That was good so we could keep now a few more clean-sheets and, again, long may it continue."

One of the secrets to Liverpool's success this season is the way in which neither the manager nor the players get carried away with what they have achieved or what they could win. They are, to paraphrase Klopp, 'mentality monsters'.

You'll have read in last month's magazine an interview with Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain in which he admitted Klopp had to calm down a post-match dressing-room argument following a game the Reds had won at home to Salzburg in the Champions League.

That was due to the players being upset at initially blowing a 3-0 lead, while they barely celebrated an important 1-0 Premier League win at Tottenham after the home side missed a couple of late chances to get something from the game.

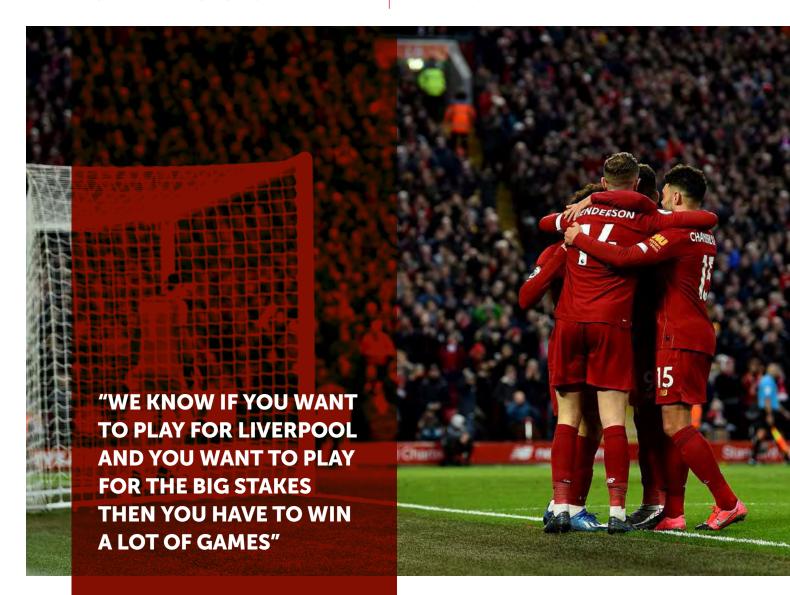
Klopp believes this focus is down to his players seeing the bigger picture – something they must maintain if the season is to end with further silverware.

"If we win a game and it was not a good game, you won't see



anybody celebrating in the dressing-room like crazy or whatever. If we win a game and it was a good game, they are in a better mood of course. But it's not like that we want to celebrate things before the final day or whatever. We are ready to fight through the season and that's what we have to do.

"We know if you want to play for Liverpool and you want to play for the big stakes then you have to win a lot of games. So far we've won some, but we have to win much more if we want to win something."





OUR KID

Local lad Trent Alexander-Arnold was another award-winner in December, having been named as Liverpool's

Standard Chartered player of the month...

Congratulations on winning the EA Sports Premier League Player of the Month for December – how does it feel to win it for the first time?

Obviously it's a proud moment. It's something to be proud of for me and I'm happy to have won it – we had a good month as a club and as a team. There are many players that were up for it so it's an honour to be the one to have won.

What was the key to beating the other contenders including Kevin de Bruyne, Adama Traore and Danny Ings?

Just a lot of determination, really. I think the mentality of the team has been really positive. We go into every game feeling as though we're good enough to win games.

If we're at our best then we're confident, and we have been so far. We've had a lot of good months, but I'd say December was a big one for us.

Liverpool's Premier League wins in December included victories against Everton, Leicester and Wolves, but which was your favourite?

I think the Leicester game [4-0] was massive for us, but obviously on a personal note to beat Everton [5-2] in the way that we did was massive as well. It's always good to beat them and to do it in the fashion we did was big for the club and set a statement for the city.

I think, for us, all the results are just as important as each other, but on a personal note it would be Everton for me.





On Boxing Day you scored against Leicester, provided two assists and the penalty awarded for handball came from your corner. Was that the best performance of your career so far?

On an individual level, I'd probably say yes, especially as an attacking outlet. It's something that doesn't come around too often, getting so many contributions to goals. But as a team we played really well and it was probably our best performance as a team.

That's all that mattered, to get the three points. We knew going there would be difficult, but to come away from it with the win that we did was massive.

You've become a playmaker from right-back — what do you attribute that to?

Obviously just training as much as possible. Growing up I was a midfielder, so that helps, and just having the players that are able to control the ball and make the runs is the most important part of it. We have players who can run in behind, and who you can play the ball to, knowing they'll be able to finish the chances.

Throughout the team we have a lot of quality and that gives us a lot of confidence amongst each other to know that, in any sort of situation, there are players that will help us.









GROWING UP I WAS A MIDFIELDER AND THAT HELPS, AS DOES HAVING PLAYERS WHO CAN CONTROL THE BALL AND MAKE THE RUNS

You've spoken about this before, but just how big has the manager's influence been on you as an individual?

Massive. He gives us a lot of freedom so it's very much that the players play to their strengths and are able to do that in different ways in the systems that we play. I think it's important that the team buys into that and the manager obviously understands what we need to do to win games.

He's been like that for all the time he's been here and he's transformed the club in an amazing way. Going forward, there'll hopefully be a lot more success with him.

There are now four months of the season to go, so what are your targets?

Keep trying to perform well, keep getting wins as a team, cleansheets and see what happens at the end of the season.

Obviously the main objective is to win things with the team. The team trophies are more of a target than the individual ones, but they come hand-in-hand, really. The more team trophies you win, the more individual ones will come.

So hopefully the focus will just be on winning things with Liverpool and then if anything does happen on an individual basis that's an extra. But like I said, it's just a team focus at the minute







ALISSON

France Football Yachine Trophy for the best men's goalkeeper in world football for 2019 Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper award for 2019 UEFA Champions League Goalkeeper of the Season for 2018/19

FIFA FIFPro Men's World 11 for 2019 UEFA Team of the Year for 2019 Samba Gold award for the best Brazilian player in Europe for 2019

IFFHS Men's World Team for 2019 Globe Soccer Awards Best Goalkeeper of the Year for 2019

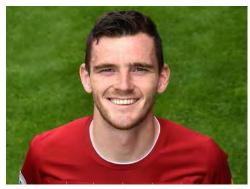


TRENT ALEXANDER-ARNOLD

UEFA Team of the Year for 2019 Premier League Player of the Month for December

Standard Chartered Player of the Month for December

Guinness World Record for most assists by a Premier League defender for 2018/19 IFFHS Men's World Team for 2019



ANDY ROBERTSONUEFA Team of the Year for 2019

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VIRGIL VAN DIJK

UEFA's Men's Player of the Year for 2018/19

UEFA Champions League Defender of the Season for 2018/19

UEFA Team of the Year for 2019 FIFA FIFPro Men's World 11 for 2019



JORDAN HENDERSON

BT England Men's Player of the Year for 2019



SADIO MANE

CAF African Player of the Year for 2019 CAF Team of the Year for 2019 UEFA Team of the Year for 2019 Premier League Player of the Month for November

Standard Chartered Player of the Month for November

IFFHS Men's World Team for 2019



JOEL MATIP

PFA Premier League Player of the Month for September



FABINHO

Liverpool FC Goal of the Month for November (v Man City)



ALEX OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN

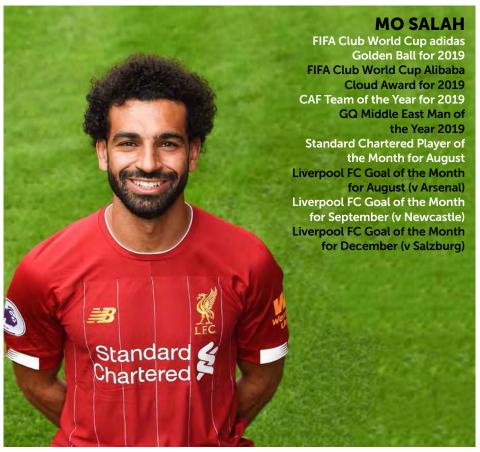
Standard Chartered Player of the Month for October

Liverpool FC Goal of the Month for October (v Genk)



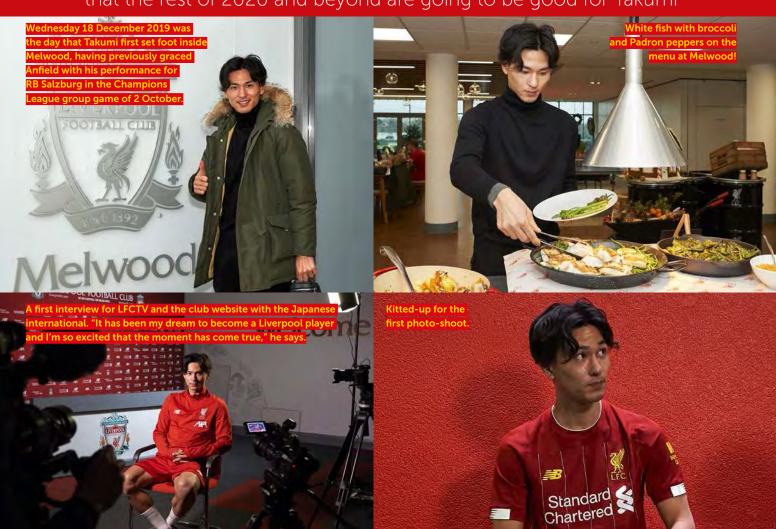
ROBERTO FIRMINO

Standard Chartered Player of the Month for September





that the rest of 2020 and beyond are going to be good for Takumi







Things are most definitely looking up!







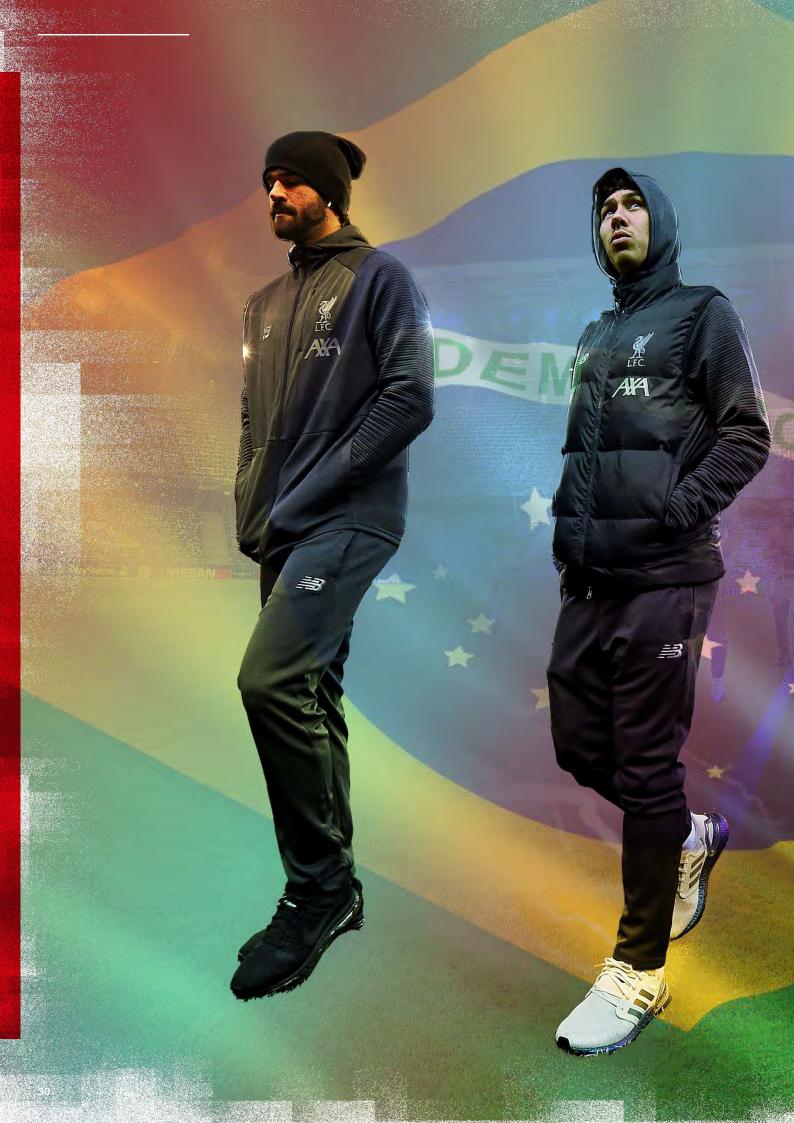












One's the world's best goalie, the other's pretty much priceless upfront, let's get them together to talk about each other and the Mighty Reds...



In what ways do you feel has the team grown from last season?

ALISSON: We're a team that's been together for a long time and so we're getting better and taking it up a level each season.

I think the difference from last season, which was already a victorious season, is consistency – defensive and offensive consistency and a consistent mentality. Our team has a winning mindset and we always think about the next game, we don't look too far ahead.

We focus upon what is within reach at the time and we do everything possible to make sure we leave the pitch with a win. All this has contributed to the great results this season.

But how do you maintain that momentum as the season changes and progresses?

ROBERTO: Last year we hit the post in the Premier League and we were upset that we didn't win, of course. We have a chance this season, it's in our hands. We need to keep it up, working hard, following this path with our heads in the right place and a winning mentality.

We'll take things game-by-game and keep this strong champion mentality up until the end and see where it takes us.

Of course we're more confident this season. We've been winning a lot of our games and this increases our confidence game-by-game. We have to continue with this momentum. **ALI**: With a lot of hard work. As I said before, mentally we are a very strong team. It's important to maintain this high level even across so many games.

For example, in December I think we had twelve games. That's a lot and we never let standards drop even with the player-changes. Our squad is very strong both in quantity and quality, so when one comes out of the team and another comes in, the level doesn't change. This is important for a team that wants to achieve great things in football and it's helped us a lot.

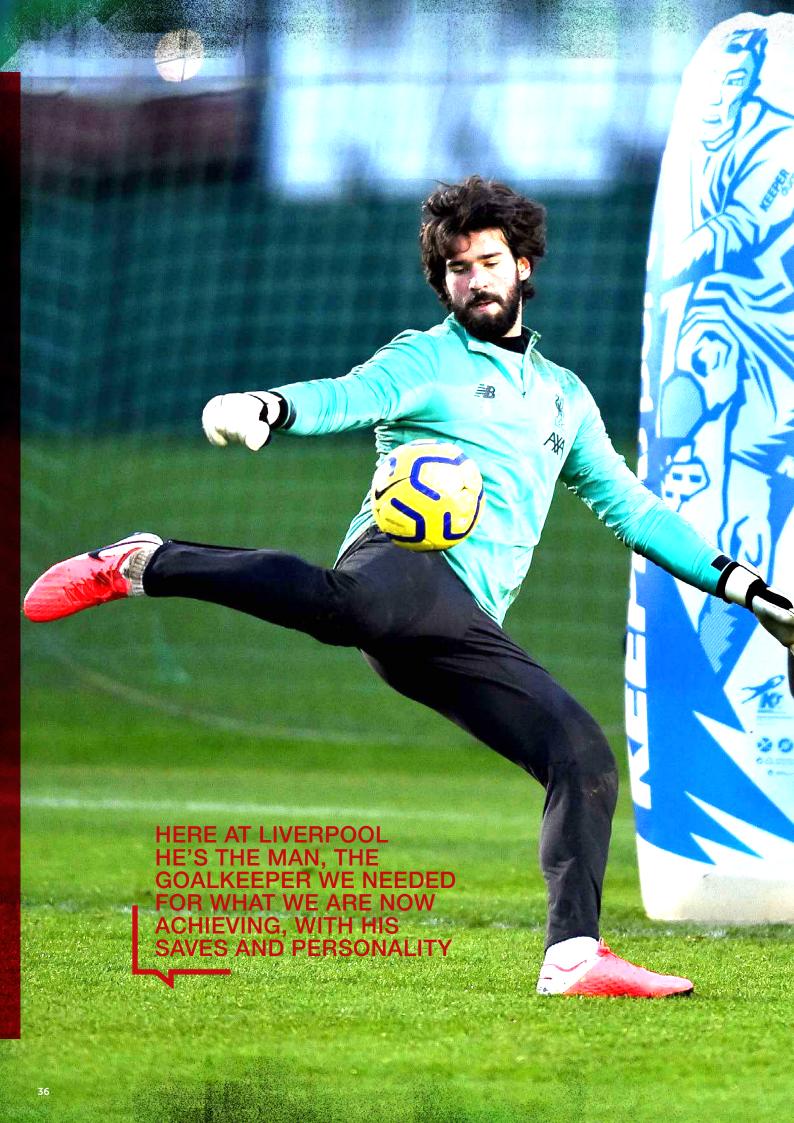
Bobby, you've been at Liverpool nearly five years now. What can you say about the changes Jürgen Klopp has made to your game?

BOBBY: I knew him from playing [for Hoffenheim] against Dortmund in Germany. I was happy, of course, when I found out he was coming here, as he was German and I'd played there as









How much do you both enjoy being part of the same club?

ALI: It's great to play alongside Bobby. I already knew him from the *Selecao*. I first knew of him from the contribution he was making – he was in the Brazil squad before me.

We then became team-mates in the national team and we saw a lot more of each other, during call-ups, at games and preparing for games. Then the opportunity to come to Liverpool came about and he was a very important influence in my choice. He spoke highly of the club, he spoke about the reality at the club, and arriving here I could see it all to be true.

Our families have become close as well, which is great for us. He's a similar guy to me, he's laid-back and manages to be even more shy than me. It's an honour for me.

The word that defines our relationship is 'honour'. It's an honour to play alongside him.

BOBBY: Off the pitch he's [Alisson] an incredible guy. He's a great person to know, easy to get on with, a family guy with a good head on his shoulders, level-headed and focused. I'm grateful to have him here with me.

Here at Liverpool, I say he's the man. He's the goalkeeper we needed. For what we are now achieving, we needed him. On the pitch he's an incredible guy that helps us a lot with his saves and his personality.

We've been doing well and this has been recognised with all the well-deserved awards he received last year.

I repeat: he's the man, the goalkeeper we needed. The definition of a modern keeper.

Ali, what do you think about that?

ALI: I think when you talk about the definition of a modern goalkeeper, [Manuel] Neuer was the pioneer. Ederson is another goalkeeper who understands this role well. [Marc-Andre] Ter Stegen has developed really well.

I always liked to play this way, I've always worked towards playing this way. I believe 'definition' is just a word. I aim to always do my best to help my team-mates, not just with saves but in other situations: organising the defence, playing with the ball at my feet, participating in the creation of play. I believe this has helped the team a lot.

My objective is to improve every season. There's no mystery in football, there's no magic, nothing different about how to achieve success – it's hard work and that's what I do day-to-day with a lot of training and focus on my collective and individual goals.

Bobby, how do you view your role? Jürgen Klopp has called you 'a connector'...

BOBBY: My job and my focus is always to help the team. Whether that's with goals or assists, I always want to be helping the team. In defence as well, as everybody knows I like defending – I don't like conceding goals.

I like providing assists and scoring goals. I like to be happy and contribute to the team.

ALI: In my opinion there's one player who is fundamental to our team and that's Bobby. He scores goals, provides assists and drives the team on. If you take him out of the team, his role is one of the most difficult to replace.



Last year you made history in Madrid but this month Liverpool return to the Wanda Metroplitano Stadium to play against Atletico – how do you feel about this tie?

ALI: When we found out they would be our opponents, I knew they are a very strong team as I'd already faced Atletico Madrid for Roma. They are a team that defends very well, a high-intensity team that likes to play offensive football, so it'll be a big challenge for us. But we'll be a big challenge for them as well.

As you know, Atletico have another top goalie in Jan Oblak...

ALI: He's a goalkeeper I admire a lot. He's shown his quality over the last few seasons. I believe he's one of, if not the, most important player for Atletico Madrid. He's definitely a player that makes a difference on the pitch, but we also have great attacking players who can make a difference as well.

Atletico Madrid are not just Oblak, they have a lot of quality players like Joao Felix. It's a team not based on individuals. They're a team that plays collectively and that's their greatest strength.

Changing the subject entirely, you both share a passion for music but who's the better singer?

BOBBY: He's a better singer than me! But I like singing. I like to tell people that if I wasn't a footballer I'd be a singer, even with a rubbish voice.

ALI: I think Bobby with the microphone would be more charismatic.

BOBBY: Stage presence!

ALI: Yes, more stage presence! He'd let go more. He'd sing and I'd play the guitar. We'd make a good double-act. We both like sertaneja [the Brazilian equivalent of country music].

BOBBY: Gospel music. That would make a good song.

ALI: Sertaneja with gospel!

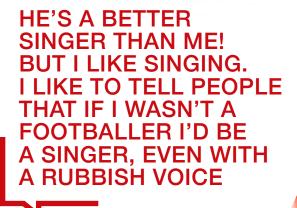
Who in the dressing-room would definitely not be the singer?

BOTH: Robbo!

ALI: I know Klopp plays the drums.

BOBBY: Fabinho could be the dancer. Gini or Van Dijk as well.

And Sadio of course, Sadio as a dancer. **ALI:** I think that'd make a good band!



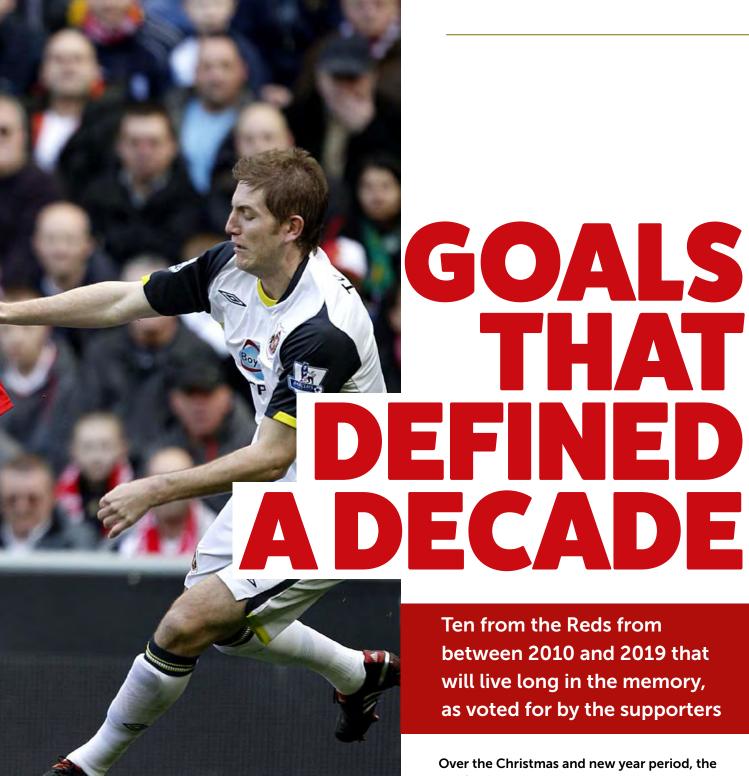




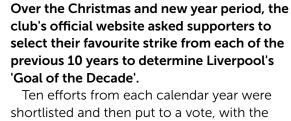












winners making up the final poll. Mohamed Salah's stunning solo strike against Tottenham Hotspur in 2018 came out on top, pipping Divock Origi's memorable effort against Barcelona in last season's Champions League semi-final and Emre Can's incredible overhead kick at Watford in 2017.

These were the contenders year by year...



Luis Suarez v Stoke City (A) League Cup (26 October)

Liverpool fans just couldn't get enough of Luis Suarez and his suitcase full of magic tricks. He produced a couple of party pieces in this fourth-round tie to warm the hearts of the travelling Kop on a chilly night in the Potteries.

Suarez scored twice in the second half to give Liverpool a 2-1 win after Stoke had gone in at the break with a 1-0 lead thanks to a goal from striker Kenwyne Jones.

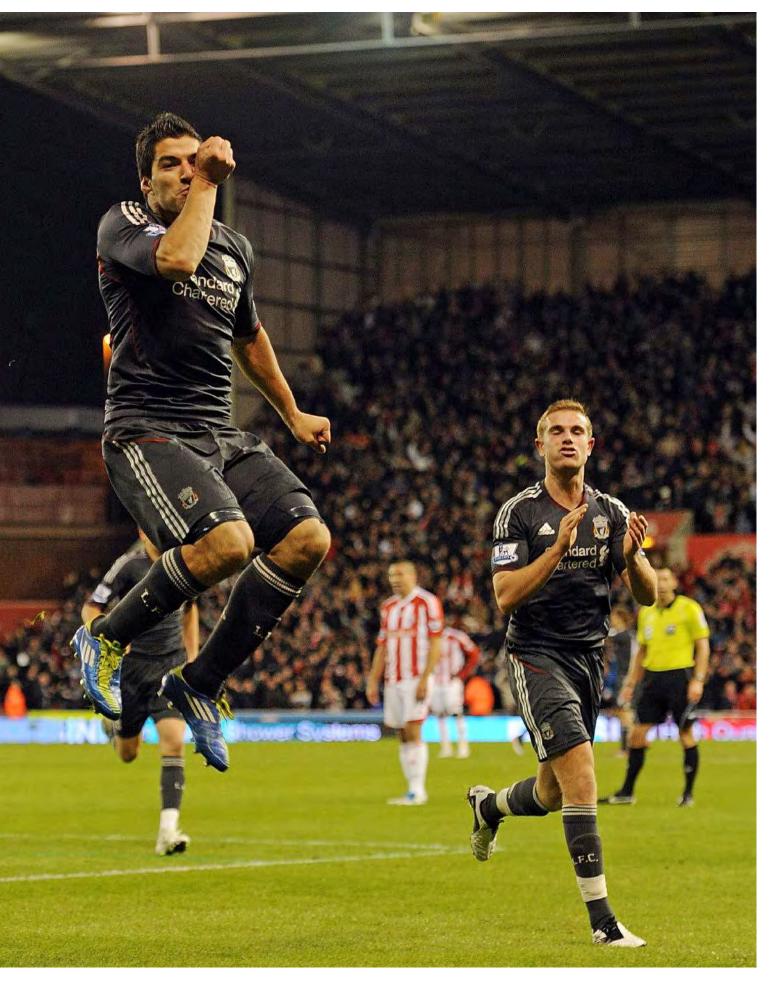
The Uruguayan's equaliser was a thing of beauty and all his own work. From a position on the left, he cut inside centre-back Robert Huth and weighed up his options before nutmegging full-back Ryan Shotton on the edge of the area and measuring a curling effort with pinpoint accuracy around keeper Thomas Sorensen and in off the right-hand upright.

"The wee man scored a fantastic goal," said boss Kenny Dalglish, who scored a few decent ones while wearing the Liverpool no7 shirt himself.

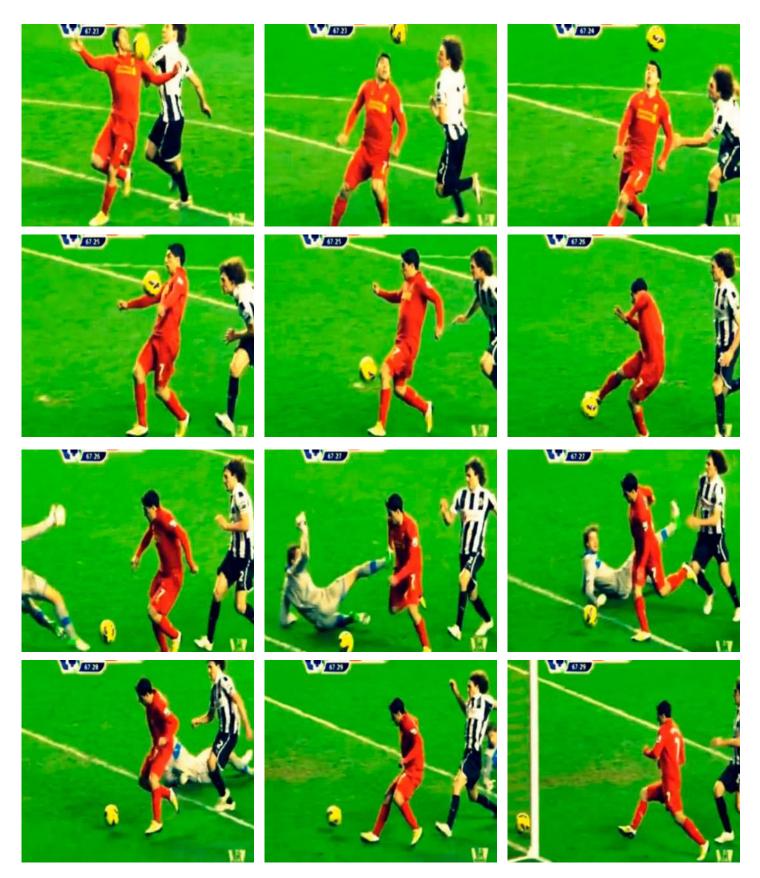












Luis Suarez v Newcastle United (H) Premier League (4 November)

A different type of finish but breathtaking nonetheless. Suarez rescued a point with a sumptuous strike against the Magpies after Yohan Cabaye's goal had given the visitors a half-time advantage.

There was something a little route one about it as ex-Newcastle full-back Jose Enrique fired a 50-yard pass from left-back to pick out Suarez's run in behind the opposing centre-backs. He brought it down high on his chest while still on the run, before having the awareness to know exactly where keeper Tim Krul was and touch the ball past the Dutchman and prod it into the empty net.

Newcastle manager Alan Pardew said afterwards: "When all is said and done about this lad, he's a fantastic player. All day today he gave us real problems."



Luis Suarez v Norwich City (H) Premier League (4 December)

Two Suarez goals in this match were shortlisted for the Reds' best of 2013. Mind you, he scored four in total in the fixture as the Reds romped to a 5-1 win.

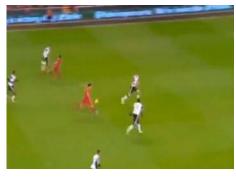
His opportunistic 40-yard volley, which left Canaries keeper John Ruddy grasping helplessly at thin air, won the club's official Goal of the Season honour at the end of a campaign that also saw the Uruguayan crowned as the PFA Players' Player and Football Writers' Player of the Year.

Captain Steven Gerrard said afterwards: "You have seen a world-class performance, probably one of the best individual performances I've seen at Anfield – and I've been playing here a long time.

"Having worked with him every single day, it's probably less of a surprise to me as it is to the supporters

"I've been pushing his corner for a long time that he is up there with the best in the world. His fourth goal was average and it was a 30-yard free-kick, so I think that sums his performance up."





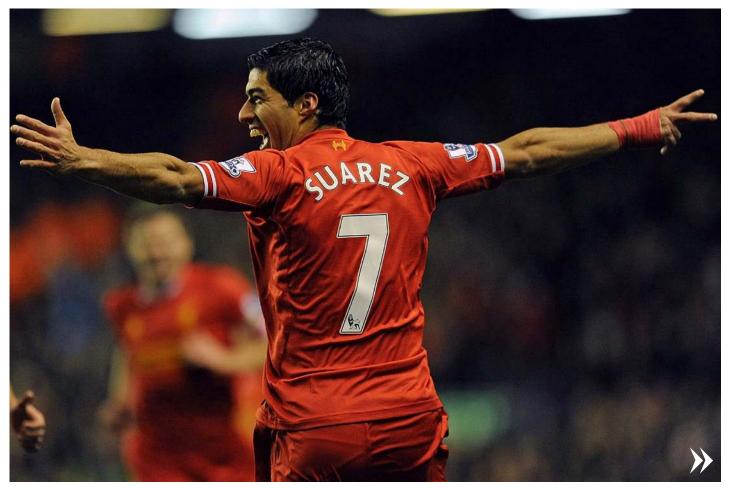


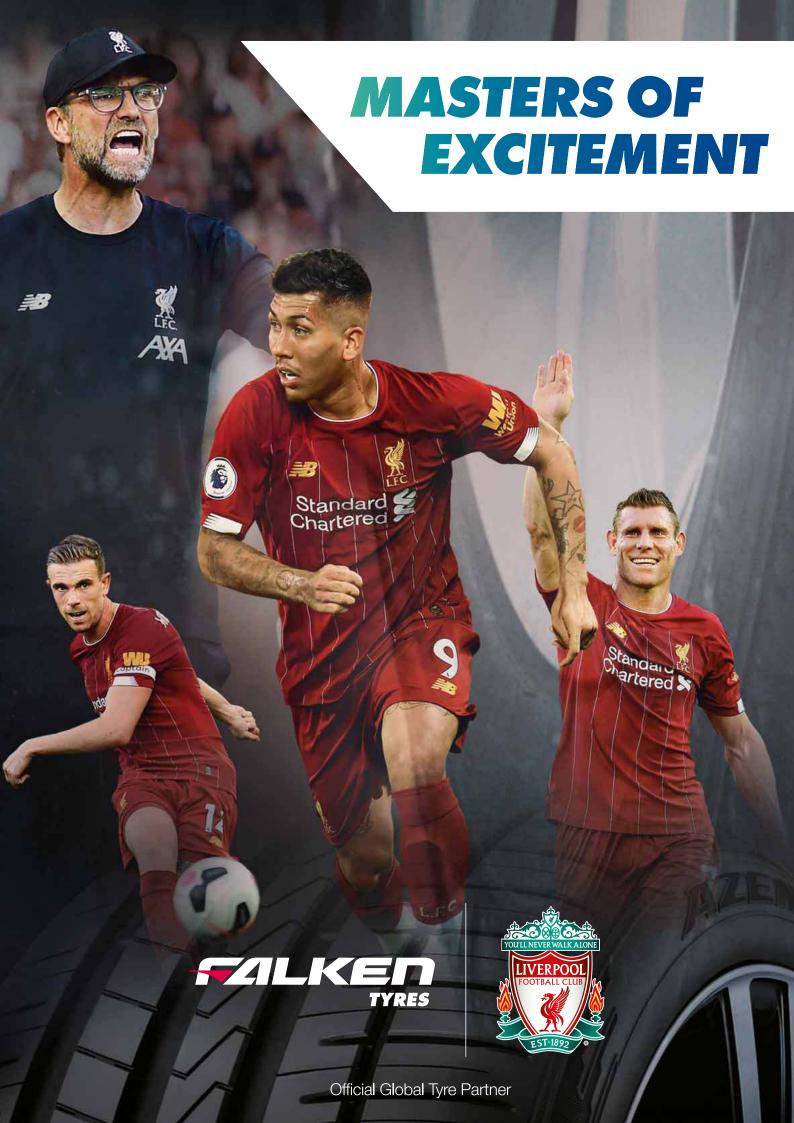








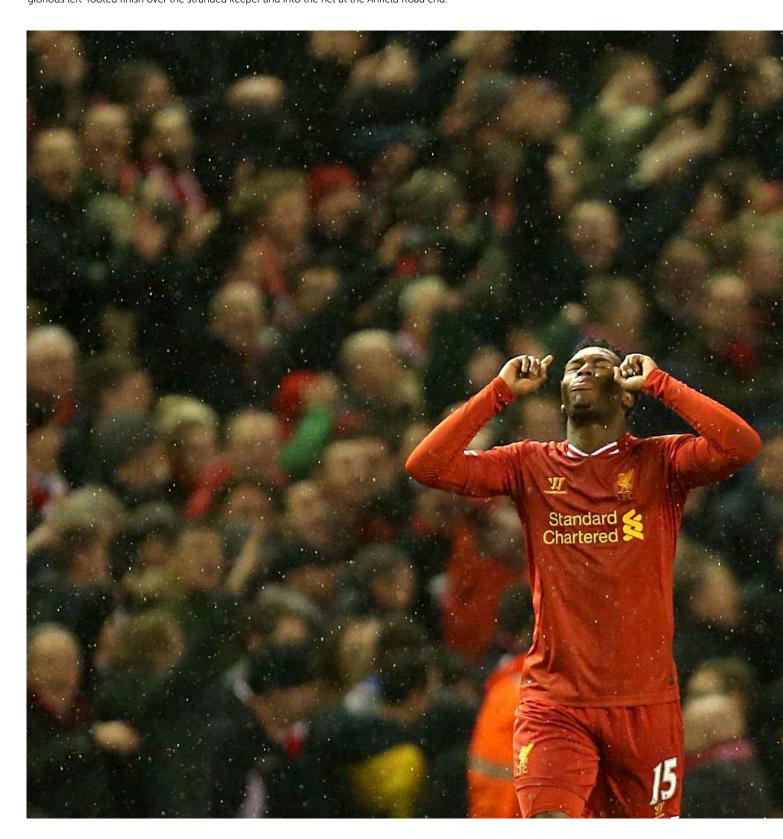




Daniel Sturridge v Everton (H) Premier League (28 January)

An opportunistic strike that was the striker's second of the night as the Reds beat the Blues 4-0 in a Tuesday-night fixture at Anfield.

Sturridge had plenty to do when he was picked out by a long ball from Kolo Toure. The centre-back's forward pass sailed over Everton defender Phil Jagielka to pick out Sturridge on the edge of the penalty area prompting goalkeeper Tim Howard to advance in a bid to intercept the danger. However, Sturridge got there first and showed great awareness of Howard's position to loft a glorious left-footed finish over the stranded keeper and into the net at the Anfield Road end.

















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Lily Black

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2015Philippe Coutinho v Southampton (A) Premier League (22 February)

The Brazilian schemer picked up five of the 10 nominations for the best goal of 2015, but it was this sublime strike away at a rain-sodden St Mary's that got the nod. It arrived just two minutes and 43 seconds into the contest and was a wonderful effort from the Reds no10.

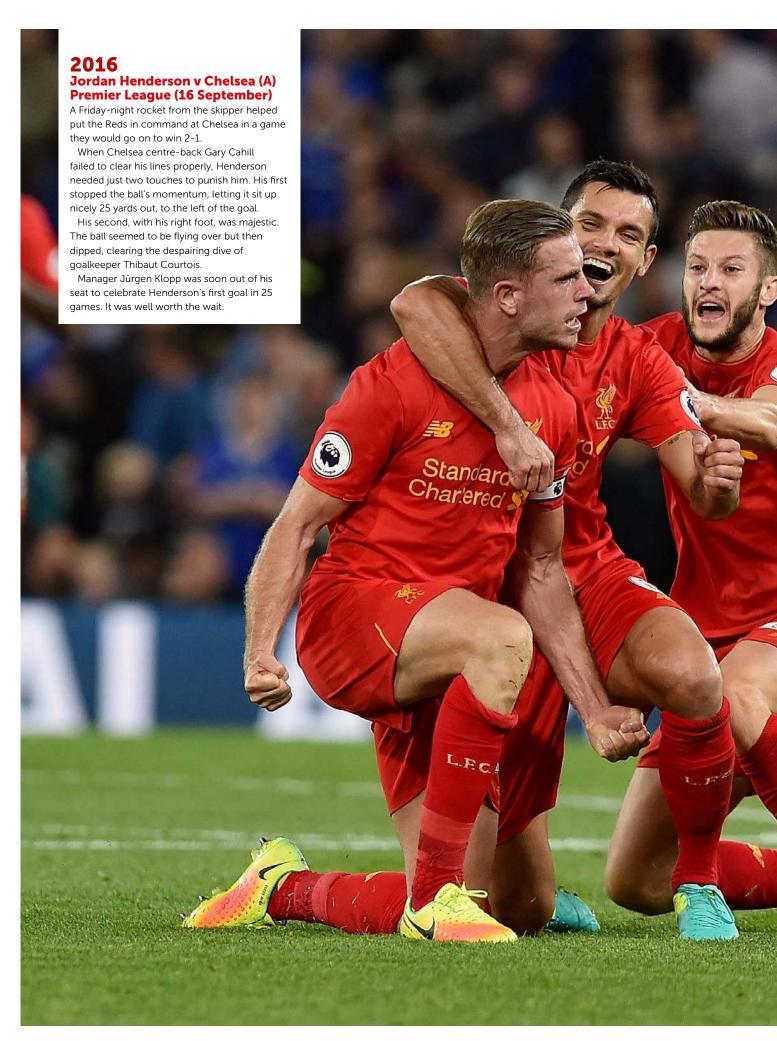
Picking the ball up after a pass infield from the left, Coutinho took two touches before whipping a brilliant effort up and in off the underside of the bar, generating enough power and direction to leave Saints keeper Fraser Forster flailing as the ball crashed off the underside of the bar and into the net.

Truly a goal of beauty.

























2017Emre Can v Watford (A) Premier League (1 May)

A goal worthy of winning any game, the German midfielder's incredible overhead kick gave the Reds a vital victory at Vicarage Road to keep their Champions League qualification push on track.

The move started with a throw-in on the Liverpool right. By the time a Divock Origi pass reached the feet of Lucas, the German ace was still over 25 yards from goal but making headway towards the penalty area. As he advanced, Roberto Firmino began to jog away from the 18-yard box, prompting Hornets centre-half Adrian Mariappa to follow him, opening up a space in behind.

Lucas immediately spotted this and pinged a delightfully-chipped pass for Can who was now just inside the box. He checked his run slightly, flung both legs into the air, swivelled his body and connected with the ball with his right foot at head-height. Watford goalkeeper Heurelho Gomes didn't even dive.

"I saw the space and then I ran behind," Can later explained. "When the ball came, I wanted to head it but it was a great ball from Lucas. I just didn't think too much and I scored a beauty like that. I think it's the best goal I've ever scored."















2018Mohamed Salah v Tottenham Hotspur (H) Premier League (4 February)

Almost 40,000 votes were cast to decide the overall winner and Mohamed Salah's brilliant individual dribble and finish in the last minutes of two frantic Premier League clash with Spurs at Anfield came out on top.

As one of the standout moments of the Egyptian's remarkable 44-goal debut season with the Reds, the strike exhibited all of Salah's predatory abilities. It was the footballing equivalent of solving a puzzle, especially when you consider the position he was in when he collected the ball at the right edge of the box and the number of defenders blocking his route to goal.

However, the no11 shifted left and right to weave his way through the Spurs backline at speed before instinctively lifting a clever finish over goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

The 91st-minute goal was enhanced by the fact Spurs had missed a penalty three minutes earlier, although they would go on to earn a 2-2 draw thanks to another spot-kick deep into added-time.





















2019Divock Origi v Barcelona (H) Champions League (7 May)

This goal finished as runner-up in the final poll but few would have quibbled should it have won when you factor in the occasion.

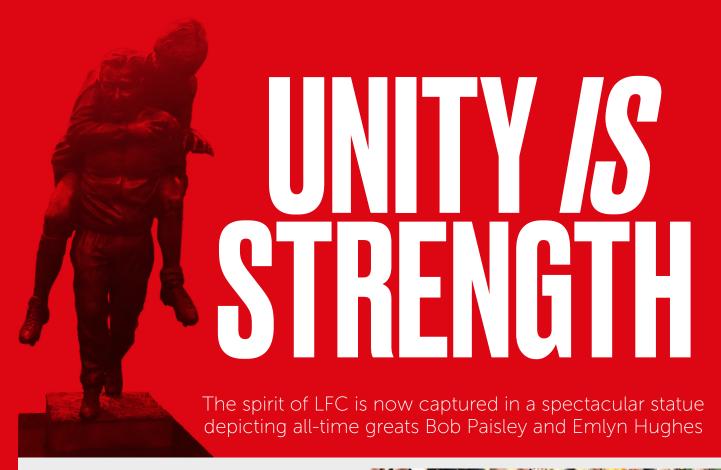
As all Reds will know, Liverpool trailed footballing powerhouse Barcelona 3-0 from the first leg of this Champions League semi-final when Messi, Suarez and co rolled into town. Liverpool were also without the injured Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino.

However, Divock Origi had proven himself a man for the big night and his early goal gave the Reds hope. After Gini Wijnaldum's quickfire double in front of the Kop tied the aggregate scores, the belief inside the stadium was tangible. Cue this moment of magic.

While Barca's backline were still organising themselves, an inspired piece of thinking from Trent Alexander-Arnold saw the right-back take a quick corner at the Kop end and pick out Origi at the near post. The Belgian still had plenty to do but as the visitors' defence started to wake up to the situation, he calmly picked his spot, cushioning his effort past stunned goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen to send Anfield into raptures.



Reds fans can watch all 100 shortlisted goals on the club's YouTube channel.



Bob Paisley, most deservedly, now has three tributes to his Anfield legacy outside our famous stadium.

In the week of February's home Premier League fixture with Southampton this stunning statue was unveiled on Paisley Square, itself a relatively new part of the fabric around the ground, just a few steps from the Paisley Gateway outside the Kop.

As original as it is thought-provoking, the 8ft bronze work of art is based on a photograph from 1968 in which Bob, then first-team coach under Bill Shankly, helps a future double European Cupwinning captain Emlyn Hughes from the field as he struggles with an injured hand and with blood running from a gash in his knee.

A famous Paisley quote is also inscribed onto the base: "This club has been my life. I'd go out and sweep the street and be proud to do it for Liverpool FC, if they asked me to." It further reflects not just the selflessness of the man but of the unity instilled into the club during that era.





Members of both the Paisley and Hughes families were not only in attendance at the statue's unveiling but also consulted right along the course of the project, donated and commissioned by the club's main sponsor, Standard Chartered, and sculpted by artist Andy Edwards.

LFC legends Sir Kenny Dalglish, Ian Callaghan, Phil Neal, Ian Rush, Phil Thompson, Alan Kennedy and David Fairclough – who all played under Bob – were also there to witness the big reveal.

The statue of Liverpool FC's most successful manager is part of a celebration of his life and legacy in the year that he would've been 100 years old. Paisley spent almost 50 years at Liverpool FC in many roles, most notably as manager from 1974 to 1983 – he remains one of the most successful managers of all time.

Having won six league titles and three European Cups as manager, it was perhaps an overdue tribute. However the time became right with the opportunity to create a statue with a





difference, as club CEO Peter Moore explains: "I was chatting one day about the football club with a close friend of mine, Emma Rodgers, herself a hugely talented sculptor.

"I've always had this photo of Bob in his physio/trainer days, carrying Emlyn Hughes off the pitch. It's the first minute of the second half and you can see that Emlyn is not only bleeding from the knees but he's done some damage to his hand.

"I've always loved this photograph and I showed it to Emma and thought nothing of it. Then she asked me a few days later to send her the digital version, which I did, and next thing I get a call from her saying can I come down to the Baltic Triangle [district in Liverpool city-centre] to Castle Fine Arts foundry, to meet somebody and see something.

"So I went down there and met Andy Edwards, an incredibly talented sculptor. He did the Beatles statues on the waterfront, and the 'Christmas Truce' soldiers in the 'Bombed Out Church'. He showed me this maquette that he'd speculatively developed, based on the photo, a scale-model of what the statue would be – and it took my breath away.

"It's everything that I think we owe Bob Paisley as a football club. We have the Paisley Gates, we have Paisley Square, but fans will tell you they're always a little disappointed that we never had a Paisley statue, given what this man has done for this football club as a player, as a trainer, as a manager.

"Our great partners at Standard Chartered, who have been doing a lot to honour Bob this year, said, 'We're in – we love the idea of having something that is a permanent legacy to this incredible man's work'. So they have funded the statue."

Potteries-born Andy, who previously worked upon a triple-figured statue of Stoke City legend Stanley Matthews, calls it "an amazing image that takes football statuary to a different level." He read up on the subject to refresh his memory of Paisley and Hughes "and the characters they were."

He continues: "I started thinking about the enormity of this job and I felt a lot of pride as I put the first clay on. The anniversary is



"We are delighted that finally we will have at Anfield a permanent legacy so people can go and see what this great man – and this great player – looked like"



an historic occasion, there are people who don't know that much about Bob Paisley, so there's a huge responsibility to not only get the detail authentic but to get the spirit and the feel because you're telling a story – it's like 3D journalism."

The maquette which Andy presented to Peter Moore was one-fifth scale – "big enough to show the detail that will appear at full-size but also small enough to be able to hold in your hand and move around to see how the whole thing is going to work when it's seen from 50 yards away.

"The main thing is to get the proportions right. If you've got a hand that's too small, or a head that's too big, people are going to spot it straightway. It has to be true to a figure carrying a 15-stone footballer on his back.

"It would be quite normal to get three-quarters of a way through a job and then change the position of a knee by six inches, either because it's drifted out of place or it would simply look better. A lot of the calculations are done by eye."

Working alongside Andy was the foundry's managing-director Chris Butler, who explains how the creative process is a combination of individual talent and state-of-the-art technology.

"I hadn't seen this picture before and what's great is that it shows a





different side of football. These days if something like this happened during a match there would be hundreds of pictures of it, you could go online and find every angle you could possibly want. But as far as we know this is the only photograph of that moment. Andy made the model from that one photo, which is quite a skill in itself, and we presented it to Peter Moore and he loved it.

"We mapped out the model five times bigger and once we had the accurate internal structure, as well as the creases and folds of the clothing, we could cover the frame with clay and Andy could come and start work.

"We made a silicon-rubber and fibreglass mould over the whole surface then divided it into sections to be cast in their individual pieces. Obviously that means there are seams, and our work then is to make it look like you don't know how it's been made."

Chris and the team have most magically succeeded. Another former skipper, Phil Thompson, who played under Bob Paisley and alongside Emlyn, will vouch for that. "The likeness is astonishing," he says. "Everybody who comes to Anfield will be thrilled to see it.

"I joined Liverpool in 1969, so this moment is from the year before, and it epitomises everything about the club in that era. Nowadays you

ANFIELD ICONS

Paislev Gateway

On Walton Breck Road stands one of a pair of grand entrances that mark the achievements of two of Liverpool FC's greatest managers, this one opened two decades ago outside the Spion Kop. Bronze plaques on piers either side of the gates show a sculpture of Bob in relief and a roll-call of his honours.



John Houlding bust

Unveiled in December 2018, depicting LFC's founding father in his mayoral finery and located on 96 Avenue near to the Anfield Forever stones. The monument stands just under seven feet tall and was created by Tom Murphy, the sculptor behind the Bill Shankly statue outside the Kop.





Hillsborough Memorial

Relocated from Anfield Road to a special alcove along 96 Avenue and a place of pilgrimage for fans of every football club.

Shankly Gates

Relocated to the corner of the Sir Kenny Dalglish Stand and Anfield Road. Officially opened in August 1982 with Bill's widow Nessie unlocking the gates accompanied by their grandchildren plus Liverpool FC chairman John Smith, manager Bob Paisley and skipper at the time, Graeme Souness.



Bill Shankly statue

Arms aloft and scarf around neck, Bill was cast in bronze and unveiled outside the Spion Kop in 1997, fifteen years after the Shankly Gates were erected. The statue remains a favourite place to meet before and after the match, and of course for supporters to take selfies with Shanks!



Hevsel plaque

lin 2006 former Liverpool full-back Phil Neal and ex-Juventus player Sergio Brio unveiled a permanent tribute to those who died at Heysel on 29 May 1985. The plaque is situated on the outside of the Sir Kenny Dalglish Stand. Underneath the two respective club crests it reads: 'In Memoria E Amicizia' (in memory and friendship).



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Billy Liddell plaque

In 2004 a plaque was unveiled to the memory of the great Billy Liddell, inside the Spion Kop by the entrance to the club museum. The Scottish winger found the net over 200 times for Liverpool, in a grand total of 534 games over 14 years, and he remains fourth in the all-time LFC scorers list behind Ian Rush,

Roger Hunt and Gordon Hodgson and ahead of Steven Gerrard, Robbie Fowler, Kenny Dalglish and Michael Owen.

see medics, stretchers, everything, but this was Bob as the humble sponge man, as they used to call them, because he was the physio as well as a coach. He did all these roles."

Both the Paisley and Hughes families have been part of the journey, and thanks must go to Standard Chartered for believing in the project. "We are delighted that finally we will have at Anfield a permanent legacy so people can go and see what this great man – and this great player – looked like," says Peter Moore. "This statue embodies everything that Liverpool stands for."

Chris Butler concludes: "Managers come and go, players come and go, fans too, but the statue is going to stay there for a long, long time. It's a pretty amazing thing."

A documentary charting the making of Bob and Emlyn's statue is available to watch now on LFCTV.







"SPINE TINGLING,

Chris Pearson, Lancaster, UK



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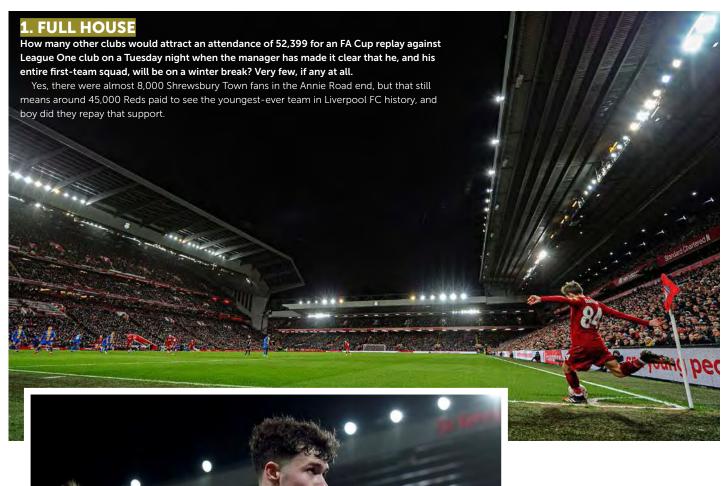
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10 THINGS WE'VE LEARNED ABOUT THE KOP'S CUP KIDS

Following those heroics in the last round of the

FA Cup, it's a great time to be a young Liverpool player

Words: Chris McLoughlin



3. NECO WILLIAMS

Four first-team games, three assists. And against Shrewsbury Town the 18-year-old right-back played like a senior player who had been thrown in with the kids.

Neco Williams was man-of-the-match and not only did he create the winning goal, when Ro-Shaun Williams headed his cross over stranded goalkeeper Max O'Leary, he should really have got on the scoresheet himself. Williams had three goalscoring opportunities and while he missed a couple and O'Leary saved another effort with his feet, the way he got into goalscoring positions from full-back was reminiscent of a young Stevie Nicol.

2. RECORD BREAKERS

With Neil Critchley in charge, the FA Cup fourth-round replay was billed as Liverpool U23s v Shrewsbury Town, but with an average age of 19 years and 102 days it was effectively a Liverpool U19s team that beat the Shrews.

Liverpool's youngest-ever starting XI, average age 19 years and 182 days, appeared against Aston Villa in the

Carabao Cup quarter-final in December while the first-team were in Qatar winning the FIFA Club World Cup. It seemed somehow inconceivable that we'd ever see a younger LFC side, but that record was smashed by 80 days against Shrewsbury Town.

Will it ever be beaten? Probably not. But then you just never know what's next for Liverpool FC.



4. CURTIS JONES

Just five days after his 19th birthday, Jones became the youngest player to captain Liverpool FC. Never before has a teenager worn the armband, and Jones was made up to have broken a club record held by Alex Raisbeck for 120 years!

"It's a dream come true," he told LFCTV. "Trent's dream is to captain the team, my dream is to captain the team because it's an unbelievable club. It's got an unbelievable history, it's got unbelievable fans and it's an amazing feeling just to be out there and playing. But to captain the team is just an extra bit special."





lesternl

Arsenal in the same competition only to become the penalty shoot-out hero when he saved from Dani Ceballos.

The next round at Aston Villa saw Kelleher concede five again, but he shut-out Shrewsbury at Anfield on his FA Cup debut to keep his first clean-sheet in a home game.

Not many 21-year-olds have kept goal for the Reds on four occasions and the way Kelleher dominated his penalty area to catch a late cross was a sign of a goalkeeper growing in confidence with every game he

"We played like a Liverpool team and I'm so proud of them. They have definitely made a step forward."

6. DUTCH DUO

Kopites are used to seeing a Dutch defender at centre-half, but with Virgil van Dijk away on his winter break Neil Critchley decided to double-up and field a Dutch duo in central defence.

Ki-Jana Hoever and Sepp van den Berg, who both turned 18 either side of Christmas, played alongside each other at centre-back for the first time in the senior team and both looked highly accomplished.

All of Hoever's previous first-team appearances had been at right-back, while Van den Berg had a couple of tricky nights in his first two starts against Arsenal and Aston Villa in the Carabao Cup, but the way both players are developing was there for all to see.

Shrewsbury didn't have a single shot on target and that was in no small part to the way the Dutch duo dealt with their strikers.





8. DEBUTANTS

Five youngsters made their Liverpool debuts against Shrewsbury Town. Adam Lewis started at left-back, Jake Cain played in central midfield and Liam Millar led the line up front for 82 minutes until fellow-debutant Joe Hardy came on to replace him.

There was also a stoppage-time debut for midfielder Elijah-Dixon Bonner and an Anfield debut from the bench for Morgan Boyes.

Twenty-year-old Millar, who was born in Toronto, made history by becoming the first Canadian to play for LFC while Leighton Clarkson made his first start for the Reds having made his debut at Aston Villa in the Carabao Cup.

It was a night none of them will ever forget.







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A SPOT OF RER

Liverpool FC Women made two additions to their squad during the winter transfer window –now let's meet the new girls, Rachel Furness and Rylee Foster

Words: William Hughes

RACHEL FURNESS:

"I'LL GET GOALS FOR LIVERPOOL"

Rachel Furness is hoping that she can bring confidence as well as goals to the Liverpool FC Women team.

The Northern Ireland midfielder, signed from Reading in late December, made her debut in a 1-0 reverse at Brighton and Hove Albion before grabbing the only goal of the game in a vital Barclays FA Women's Super League clash at Bristol City. It helped secure a result which gave the Reds their first league win of the season and lifted them off the bottom of the table.

Furness says her belief in the talent in the Reds squad has been confirmed in both those two fixtures along with an 8-1 romp at Blackburn Rovers in the fourth round of the FA Women's Cup.

"The Brighton result was disappointing, but having watched the game back we knew that we dominated and that we did deserve the three points," she says. "Then we showed a real resolve to get the points at Bristol.

"We've had to take that into training and focus on just being a bit more clinical because I definitely see the talent is there in this squad and we are creating chances. It's just putting the ball in the back of the net

"I think we've needed to change it up and change our mentality. You can look at games like Brighton and say it has been the story of the season so far, but we managed to come out on the right side of a 1-0 result in that game and we've got half-a-season to turn things around and climb further up the table.

"We really have to take it on. I believe this group we have here are good enough – they just need a change of that mentality and to believe a little bit more that we can be clinical."

The no27 was always confident that she could help the team solve their problems in front of goal. "Any way that I can assist, whether it be vocally or on the pitch, I will step up and I'm confident I can get something out of it.

"I am confident that I'm going to get goals for Liverpool. We have got a very talented group of players and I know we can create for ourselves. It was nice to get off the mark at Bristol City but more importantly help the team to get an important three points."

Rachel has teamed up with Rhiannon Roberts in the Reds midfield and the duo are also battling it out with their countries this season as they look to secure a place at Euro 2021 which will be held in England next summer

Northern Ireland and Wales have already contested both qualifiers against each other with honours ending even. They drew 2-2 draw at Newport in September and then fought out a goalless stalemate in Belfast in November. "I've known Razza for a good few years now and I know that she does like a battle — and it was a battle when Northern Ireland played Wales!



"We had a few crunching tackles but while you are not friends during the game, you shake hands at the end. The games were both draws so not one of us can have bragging rights just yet."

Wales sit six points above Northern Ireland after four fixtures but with the latter having also played both of their games against table-toppers Norway, they now have double-headers to come against Belarus and the group's bottom team, the Faroe Islands.

Rachel continues: "I do believe that if we really kick on in those games then Northern Ireland have got a great chance of finishing high up in the group.

"Wales have got some tough games to come against Norway and we're hoping to better their results to give ourselves the best chance of qualifying.

"We will focus on ourselves and if we get those points then we do put ourselves in a very good place, so I'm really excited to kick on for the second half of the campaign."

For the next few months, however, her primary focus will be on club football. "I'm excited to play for our fans and hopefully we can start to pick up results and move ourselves up the table," she says.

Meanwhile Liverpool manager Vicky Jepson is delighted with the immediate impact Furness has made. She reveals: "My assistant Emma Humphries and I went to watch her play for Northern Ireland against Wales at Newport and I thought she ran the show.

"She was such a leader and we felt: we need this girl, we need this player in our team, especially with the tough patches that we've been through.

"We needed a positive leader who can drag us over hurdles when we need it.

"We also know that she has such a presence in the box and that was proved at Bristol City when she scored the winning goal and it was a great finish from her. I was so pleased for her to get on the scoresheet. I thought she was our player of the match that day.

"That game at Bristol represented the first match in the second half of our season and hopefully she can help us as we look to move forward."



RYLEE FOSTER:

"IT'S A DREAM TO PLAY FOR THE REDS"

Goalkeeper Rylee Foster is passionate about Liverpool Football Club and her love for the Reds is inked on her arm. The Canadian youth international bears a tattoo bearing the title of the club's anthem You'll Never Walk Alone.

"I got the tattoo in 2014 after my grandmother passed away," she explains. "My grandparents are both from Wavertree in Liverpool but moved away during the war. It's just a commemorative thing to show that they are always with me."

Foster, from Ontario, joins the Reds after finishing her career in the American college system with West Virginia University. The 21-year-old enjoyed a successful four-year career with the Mountaineers, playing 84 games and recording 39 clean-sheets.

She was named on the MAC Hermann Trophy long-list for the most outstanding college player of the season in two successive years.

"It's been a dream for me to play for Liverpool since I was a young kid," she adds. "To be able to start my professional career and be in Liverpool – this was the ultimate goal for me – so to be able to start here is amazing.

"I'm going to come in, work hard and do everything I can to help out."

She will wear the no13 jersey for the Reds. Boss Vicky Jepson explains: "Alisson Becker wore that number last season in his debut campaign for the club.

"Rylee is a good signing for us. It's about signing a good quality goalkeeper that brings competition to our current squad. She's a fantastic fit for us for the future.

"We're glad to have such a young, talented individual join our squad and she will add strength. She's settled in well and we're looking forward to seeing what she's capable of."













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IT'S OUR HAPPY THIRD BIRTHDAY!

Red Neighbours, the club's community programme, celebrates three years of intense and inspiring work within the Anfield area and adjacent postcodes

Liverpool FC's community programme Red Neighbours marked its third birthday by celebrating successfully supporting over 53,000 local people within the Anfield community.

Since its launch in January 2017 the Red Neighbours team has been working in Anfield and the surrounding postcodes of L4, 5 and 6, helping to address four specific areas of need: food poverty and education; supporting the elderly community; creating memorable experiences for young people; and promoting an active community.

All of the activities and events that Red Neighbours delivers have been designed in response to feedback provided by local people following a consultation with key community stakeholders prior to its launch.

The past three years have seen the Red Neighbours team up with Fans Supporting Foodbanks to help collect more than 13,000kg of food and counting on matchdays for the North Liverpool Foodbank in aid of local people in crisis. Not only this, but the team have delivered free breakfast clubs for local families



to attend during school half-term and summer holidays – with more than 1,800 local people attending since the programme launched.

Social isolation amongst the local elderly community is another area where the Red Neighbours team have set out to make a difference. The Monday Club, which is a monthly social event at Anfield for residents aged 50+ is as popular as ever, and typically welcomes more than 60 local residents every month

The team also run regular care home and hospital visits, often alongside LFC staff volunteers who are on-hand to help. Every year in December the team provides a week of three course Christmas lunches, which to date have been attended by over 1,400 local pensioners.

November also saw the launch of Walking Football in Kirkby at All Saints Catholic High School, with Liverpool forward Xherdan Shaqiri in attendance. A second location was added due to increasing demand at its sessions in Anfield, which run twice a week – the sessions now run Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays for those young-at-heart footballers.



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Support for local children within the Anfield region also remains at the heart of those at LFC – with over 3,500 children and young people from 25 local schools welcomed to Premier League games at Anfield as part of Red Neighbours' school tickets initiative, and 115 terminally ill people and their families invited to visit Melwood training ground over the past three years.

The future of our youth has also been a focus for the Red Neighbours team who have delivered, to date, 12 careers speed-networking events at Anfield to educate over 600 youngsters on different career-paths within the sports industry and life beyond school.



Forbes Duff, senior manager of Red Neighbours, said: "We are absolutely delighted to mark our third successful year working with local people in the Anfield community, which we are so proud and honoured to do.

"As a club, we strive to be a good neighbour and support our local community. We have a social responsibility to do so, particularly in Anfield, which has some of the most deprived postcodes in the UK.

"We have made it our mission to make a difference to those in our local community with our range of activities and events and we believe we have made a measurable impact.

"Year on year we are seeing our participation

rates increase.

"Last season [2018/19] we saw a 33 per cent increase in participation from the previous season [2017/18] and we are set to see another increase at the end of this season.

"Celebrating our third birthday gives us a chance to reflect on all the hard work that our team delivers week in, week out, in the local community and the difference it is making.

"We are very much looking forward to continuing our efforts in this calendar year and beyond."

To find out more about Red Neighbours projects and regular events, visit liverpoolfc. com/news/community.















Today's Mighty Reds model the vintage looks of yesteryear for the new Retro Collection exclusive to LFC



Glory that was Rome

ADULT RETRO 84 ROME SHIRT

Fabinho models this replica version of the Liverpool jersey for the 1984 European Cup final, when the Reds beat Roma on penalties in their own stadium. It has the white-and-red V-neck from the era, those trademark pinstripes and the occasion embroidered around the club crest - what's not to love?

The shirt evokes memories of skipper Graeme Souness lifting the trophy, all eleven kilos of it, with one arm into the warm Roman nightsky while pointing to the Liverpool fans with his free hand.

"We were winning everything, we looked like winning everything," he reflected when his playing days were over. "We knew at the start of each season, when we were photographed along with the trophies, that there was a fair chance they were going to be in the same picture the following year."

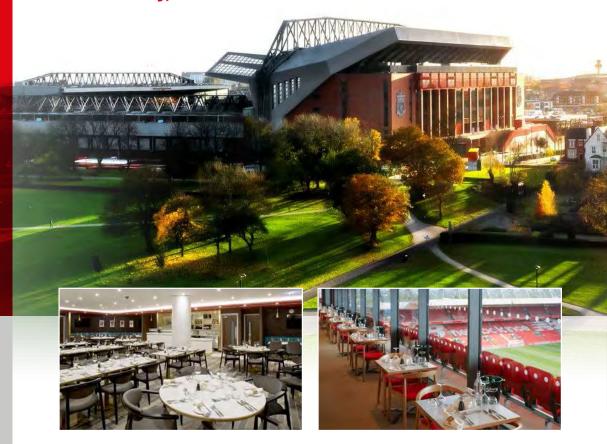
No wonder: 1983/84 saw the Reds become the first English club to win three major trophies in one campaign. £40 (CODE: A13340)





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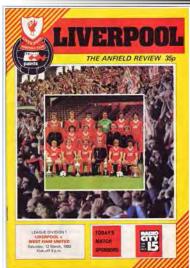


On the right track

ADULT RETRO 82/83 CROWN PAINTS TRACK JACKET

At the start of May 1983, around 18 years before Curtis Jones was born, Liverpool clinched their their sixth top-flight title in nine seasons under manager Bob Paisley, and their 14th in total. Think Rush and Dalglish, Hansen and Lawrenson, and Bruce Grobbelaar between the posts.

Inspired by the home jersey from that all-conquering campaign, this track jacket features a yellow Liver Bird within a white panel and a felt Crown Paints logo across the back. £50 (CODE: A13354)









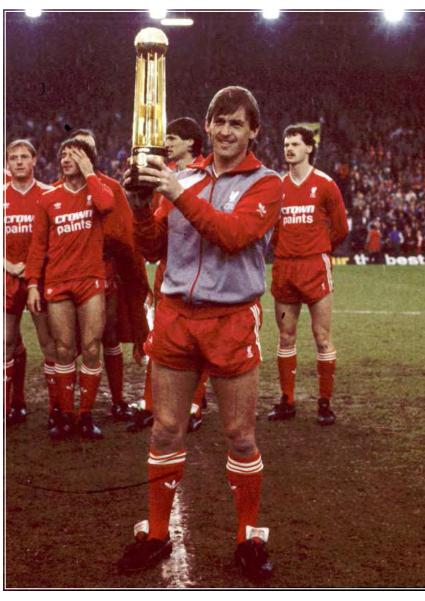
Double Delight

ADULT RETRO 85/86 CROWN PAINTS TRACK JACKET

Fabinho would not have looked out of place in the class of 1985/86 which won a league-and-FA-Cup double under Kenny Dalglish in his first season as player-manager. They took the title with eleven wins and one draw from their final dozen league games, then of course beat neighbours Everton to clinch the Cup at Wembley.

Defender Alan Hansen recalls: ""The team as a whole were magnificent during the run-in. Hard games came at us thick and fast and it was in the true Liverpool tradition that we had an opportunity and took it."

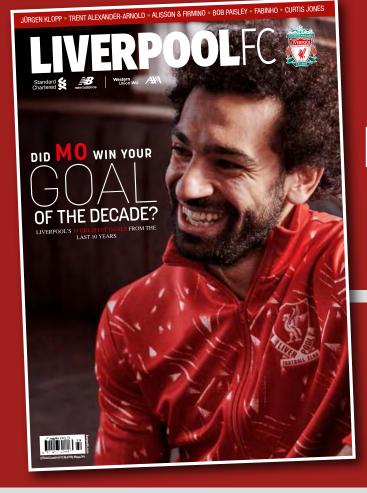
This red-and-grey track jacket features the commemorative words 'FA CUP FINAL' AND 'WEMBLEY 1986' embroidered on the chest in white, with a raised Crown Paints logo in white on the back. **£50 (CODE: A13353)**



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MENS RETRO 78/79 HITACHI HOME SHIRT

Dejan models the classic V-neck home shirt from the late Seventies and the first by an English football club to feature a sponsor's name (Japanese company Hitachi were famous for their washing-machines at the time – they even featured as competition prizes in the matchday programme).

In the 1978/79 season Bob Paisley's Liverpool accumulated a record 68 points (under the old two-points-for-a-win system) and established a record for conceding the fewest goals, 16, by a top-flight side.

"That side was phenomenal," remembers midfielder Terry McDermott.

"We could play any which way we had to against any opponent. Graeme Souness used to say, 'If they come here for a fight, we'll give them a fight' or 'If they want to try and outplay us they can't — we've got too many good players'. And he was right. We won games both ways. We were an exceptional team. We had the good football and the steel."

The jersey comes in a thick cotton with white V-neck collar and cuffs, a yellow embroidered LFC Liver Bird to the left of the chest, and the white velvet 'HITACHI' front-centre. £40 (CODE: A13337)

Green Party

ADULT RETRO 99/00 AWAY SHIRT

An away shirt which marked the beginning of the Gerard Houllier dynasty, as the French manager took sole charge of the Liverpool FC first team and brought in new faces like Sami Hyypia, Stephane Henchoz, Sander Westerveld, Didi Hamann and Vladimir Smicer to complement exciting home-grown talent like Michael Owen, Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher.

The green replica shirt features a raised, textured Carlsberg logo and retro LFC emblem in an embroidered badge, with a navy polo collar and navy-and-white stripe print. £40 (CODE: A13349)





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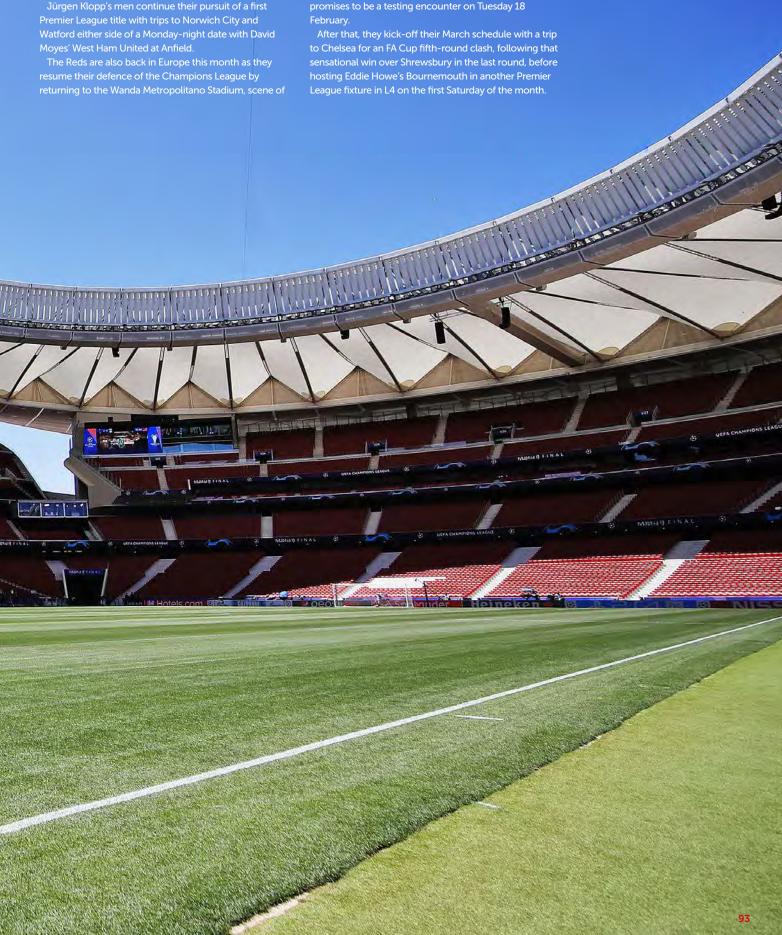
CANARIES, HAMMERS, HORNETS AND A RETURN TO WANDA METROPOLITANO

Liverpool went into their winter break knowing they will resume their February fixture list with three games against

Jürgen Klopp's men continue their pursuit of a first

their final triumph against Tottenham Hotspur last June.

This time they will come up against a partisan crowd backing Diego Simeone's Atletico Madrid in what promises to be a testing encounter on Tuesday 18



FEB/MAR

YOUNG GUNS FACE CITY CLASH



Barry Lewtas' Under-18s have an important fixture against Manchester City at the Academy in Kirkby on Saturday 22 February. The Reds started the month six points behind City at the top of the Premier League Under-18s table but with two games in hand.

Both sides have lost just two league games so far this season and the young Reds will be looking to claw back City's advantage when they host their rivals from Manchester.

Liverpool will be looking for some kind of revenge having lost 5-2 in the reverse fixture at The Academy Stadium in mid-September.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...

- 19 years since Jari Litmanen scored his first Liverpool goal on 10 February 2001.
- 121 years since Alex Raisbeck scored his first goal for Liverpool on 11 February 1899.
- 29 years since that epic 4-4 draw with Everton in the FA Cup on 20 February 1991.
- **42** years since Graeme Souness scored his first Liverpool goal on 25 February 1978.
- 94 years since Gordon Hodgson made his LFC debut on 27 February 1926.
- 33 years since John Aldridge scored on his home debut for LFC on 28 February 1987.

And it's 55 years since a dramatic FA Cup fifth-round win at Bolton Wanderers...

Liverpool's first FA Cup-winning campaign was full of ups and downs and their fifth-round win at Burnden Park was full of drama.

FA Cup fever was sweeping through the red half of Merseyside. The Reds received an allocation of 20,000 tickets but even that was not enough to satisfy the huge demands of their cup-crazy fans. Season-ticket holders snapped up their allocation in no time and chaotic scenes greeted the sale of the remaining 7,000 at Anfield.

Many took time off work and queues began to form during the early hours. By the time the ticket office opened the queues had quadrupled and there were scenes of panic as the crowds grew bigger. The majority went home empty-handed.

The game itself hung in the balance at the interval with neither side creating any notable scoring opportunities. Yet as the second half wore on Liverpool gained the ascendancy.

Five minutes remained when winger Peter Thompson collected the ball

out on the left. There seemed to be no apparent danger at first but then, in an instant, he switched the ball to his right foot and floated an inviting centre across for lan Callaghan to nod home.

Amid the celebrations, a wooden barrier behind the goal collapsed. Police and ambulance men were immediately at the scene and fortunately no-one was injured.

There was barely time for Bolton to launch a comeback and Liverpool secured their place in the last eight for the third successive season.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Naby Keita 25 on 10 February

February on 14 February

Frances Kitching 22 on 17 February

Phil Neal 68 on 20 February

Kevin Keegan 69

Steve McManaman 48 on 11 February

Jari Litmanen 49 on 20 February



Jemma Purfield 23 on 21 February

Vicky Jepson 33 on 23 February

Luis Longstaff 19 on 24 February

Alec Lindsay 72 on 27 February

Kenny Dalglish 69 on 4 March

Joey Jones 65 on 4 March

AWAY SCREENINGS IN THE KOP BAR



Norwich City FC 15th February Kick off 17:30



Atletico Madrid 18th February Kick off 20.00



Watford FC 29th February Kick off 17:30



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xtures & Results

| AUGUST | | SCORE/KO | TV |
|----------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------|
| Sun 04 | Manchester City (CS, N) | 1-1* | BT |
| Fri 09 | Norwich City (H) | 4-1 | Sky |
| Wed 14 Sat 17 | Chelsea (Super Cup, N) Southampton (A) | 2-2** 2-1 | ВТ |
| Sat 24 | Arsenal (H) | 3-1 | Sky |
| Sat 31 | Burnley (A) | 3-0 | Sky |
| SEPTEMBER | | | |
| Sat 14 | Newcastle United (H) | 3-1 | ВТ |
| Tue 17 | Napoli (UCL Matchday 1, A) | 0-2 | BT |
| Sun 22 | Chelsea (A) | 2-1 | Sky |
| Wed 25 | MK Dons (Carabao Cup 3, A) | 2-0 | Sky |
| Sat 28 | Sheffield United (A) | 1-0 | ВТ |
| OCTOBER | | | |
| Wed 02 | Salzburg (UCL Matchday 2, H) | 4-3 | BT |
| Sat 05 Sun 20 | Leicester City (H) Manchester United (A) | 2-1 1-1 | Cla |
| Wed 23 | Genk (UCL Matchday 3, A) | 4-1 | Sky BT |
| Sun 27 | Tottenham Hotspur (H) | 2-1 | Sky |
| Wed 30 | Arsenal (Carabao Cup 4, H) | 5-5** | Sky |
| NOVEMBER | | | |
| NOVEMBER Sat 02 | Aston Villa (A) | 2-1 | |
| Sat UZ Tue 05 | Genk (UCL Matchday 4, H) | 2-1 2-1 | ВТ |
| Sun 10 | Manchester City (H) | 3-1 | Sky |
| Sat 23 | Crystal Palace (A) | 2-1 | • |
| Wed 27 | Napoli (UCL Matchday 5, H) | 1-1 | BT |
| Sat 30 | Brighton (H) | 2-1 | |
| DECEMBER | | | |
| Wed 04 | Everton (H) | 5-2 | AP |
| Sat 07 Tue 10 | Bournemouth (A) | 3-0 2-0 | ВТ |
| Sat 14 | Salzburg (UCL Matchday 6, A) Watford (H) | 2-0 | BT |
| Tue 17 | Aston Villa (Carabao Cup QF, A) | 0-5 | Sky |
| Wed 18 | Monterrey (CWC SF) | 2-1 | BB |
| Sat 21 | Flamengo (CWF final) | 1-0^ | BB |
| Thu 26 Sun 29 | Leicester City (A) Wolverhampton W (H) | 4-0 1-0 | AP |
| | wotvernampton w (H) | 1-0 | Sky |
| JANUARY | | | |
| Thu 02 | Sheffield United (H) | 2-0 | BT |
| Sun 05 Sat 11 | Everton (FA Cup 3, H) Tottenham Hotspur (A) | 1-0 1-0 | Sky |
| Sun 19 | Manchester United (H) | 2-0 | Sky |
| Thu 23 | Wolverhampton W (A) | 2-1 | ВТ |
| Sun 26 | Shrewsbury Town (FA Cup 4, A) | 2-2 | BB |
| Wed 29 | West Ham United (A) | 2-0 | |
| FEBRUARY | | | |
| Sat 01 | Southampton (H) | 4-0 | |
| Tue 04 | Shrewsbury Town (FA Cup 4Rep, H) | | 61 |
| Sat 15 Tue 18 | Norwich City (A) Atletico Madrid (UCL R of 16 1) | 5.30pm 8pm | Sky BT |
| Mon 24 | West Ham United (H) | 8pm | Sky |
| Sat 29 | Watford (A) | 5.30pm | Sky |
| MARCH | | | |
| Tue 03/Wed 04 | Chelsea (FA Cup 5, A) | TBC | |
| Sat 07 | Bournemouth (H) | 12.30pm | ВТ |
| Wed 11 | Atletico Madrid (UCL R of 16 2) | 8pm | BT |
| Mon 16 | Everton (A) | 8pm | Sky |
| Sat 21 Sat 21 | Crystal Palace (H) FA Cup 6 | 5.30pm TBC | Sky |
| | in cup o | 100 | |
| APRIL | Maria Circle | 7 | |
| Sat 04 T/W 07/08 | Manchester City (A) UCL QF 1 | 3pm TBC | ВТ |
| 1/W 0//08 Sat 11 | Aston Villa (H) | 3pm | DI |
| T/W 14/15 | UCL QF 2 | TBC | ВТ |
| Sat 18 | Brighton (A) | 3pm | |
| Sat 18 | FA Cup SF | TBC | |
| Sat 25 T/W 28/29 | Burnley (H) UCL SF 1 | 3pm TBC | ВТ |
| | 001311 | 100 | וט |
| MAY | Avenue (A) | 7 | |
| Sat 02 T/W 05/06 | Arsenal (A) UCL SF 2 | 3pm TBC | ВТ |
| Sat 09 | Chelsea (H) | 3pm | וט |
| Sun 17 | Newcastle United (A) | 3pm | |
| Sat 23 | FA Cup final (N) | TBC | |
| Sat 30 | UCL final (N) | TBC | BT |

SCORERS Matip (pens: Shaqiri, Lallana, Chamberlain, Salah) **Hanley (OG), Salah, Van Dijk, Origi** Mane 2 (pens: Firmino, Fabinho, Origi, A-Arnold, Salah) Mane, Firmino Matip, Salah 2 (1 pen) Wood (OG), Mane, Firmino Mane 2, Salah Alexander-Arnold, Firmino Milner, Hoever Wijnaldum Mane, Robertson, Salah 2 Mane, Milner (pen) Lallana Oxlade-Chamberlain 2, Mane, Salah Henderson, Salah (pen) Mustafi (OG), Milner (pen), Oxlade-Chamberlain, Origi 2 (pens: Milner, Lallana, Brewster, Origi, Jones) Robertson, Mane Wijnaldum, Oxlade-Chamberlain Fabinho, Salah, Mane Mane, Firmino Lovren Van Dijk 2 Origi 2, Shaqiri, Mane, Wijnaldum Oxlade-Chamberlain, Keita, Salah Keita, Mane, Salah Keita, Firmino Firmino Firmino 2, Milner (pen), Alexander-Arnold

Salah, Mane Jones

Firmino Van Dijk, Salah Henderson, Firmino

Salah (pen), Oxlade-Chamberlain

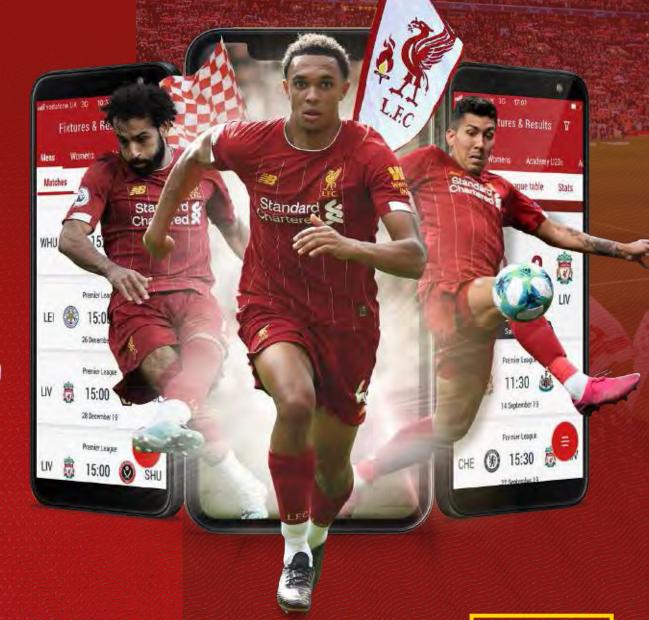
Oxlade-Chamberlain, Henderson, Salah 2

Williams (OG)











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WE ARE LIVERPOOL. THIS MEANS MORE.



NEIL MELLOR

I think there is both an identity and feel-good factor to Liverpool right now under Jürgen Klopp's management

It has been a little bit unusual at Liverpool this season that so many youngsters have had opportunities to play first-team football, perhaps more so than at any other Premier League club.

I was at Anfield for the Shrewsbury FA Cup replay and I could see how they have grown from the first time when many got opportunities. The confidence is there, the belief is there and I think the supporters at Anfield certainly helped them.

Having a crowd of that size, who created a good atmosphere, was a big factor in helping the players deliver a winning performance that will get them noticed more by the first-team staff, and put Liverpool into the FA Cup fifth round.

During my generation, one or two youngsters got a chance to play with first-team players whereas we've seen lots of young Liverpool players thrown in together this year.

The average age of the Liverpool side was 19 years and 102 days old. Shrewsbury's average age was 26, so nobody should underestimate how difficult it is to play against an established League One team who have an understanding. Neil Critchley's starting XI had

never played consistently together before, if at all.

That said, these young players want to play for Liverpool. They want to play in the Premier League and Champions League. They don't want to be playing in League One, so they have to show they are good enough to play for Liverpool in matches such as Shrewsbury at home, which they did.

Watching our first-team is a great learning experience for those young players and I think there is both an identity and feel-good factor to Liverpool under Jürgen Klopp's management.

When I've been down to the Academy this season I've been able to sense and see the belief and confidence that they might get opportunities to play in big games for Liverpool. That has been reflected in their performances, and you have to give credit to Alex Inglethorpe, Neil Critchley, Barry Lewtas and the other staff for creating an environment for these young players to flourish, progress and handle big occasions.

There's a connection within the football club that feels very, very special and this is before the first-team move to Kirkby in the summer to be on the same site.

This is a big point, for me. Under previous managerial regimes, including when I was playing for Liverpool, there was a strained relationship between Melwood and the Academy. It was difficult to build a connection between the two sites, but Jürgen and Alex have formed a strong relationship that has bridged the gap. That has helped the young players to develop, with Trent Alexander-Arnold a great example of a young lad benefiting from the strong connection.

Adam Lewis, Jake Cain and Leighton Clarkson are the latest to benefit. They all made their first Anfield starts against Shrewsbury and they'll have been buzzing about it when they woke up the following morning. Nights like that are a dream-cometrue for lads who have been at The Academy since before they were teenagers.

They'll have played at Anfield at youthlevel but it's completely different when the stadium is empty. Playing against Shrewsbury was a fulfilment of all their hard work and a proud moment for them, their families and the Academy.

By the same token, the lads that were brought into the club, such as Ki-Jana Hoever, Sepp van den Berg, Harvey Elliott, Liam Millar

and Joe Hardy, will be equally as thrilled to have played. It's very difficult to get first-team opportunities for young players, but they delivered both a good performance and a win. Now they'll all be hoping to be involved at Chelsea in the next round.

Sandwiched in the midweek between Watford away and Bournemouth at home – and between the two Champions League games against Atletico Madrid – I think the manager will play some first-team players who need game-time, plus some of the youngsters.

Joel Matip, Dejan Lovren, James Milner, Adam Lallana, Naby Keita, Divock Origi, Xherdan Shaqiri and Adrian all need games, but a number of our young players have now earned the trust of Jürgen

He will trust them to perform at Chelsea too.



FURON





GOAL BOUND

























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